

Strong TIES Connects STEAM, eSport In 3-Day Virtual Camp

The impacts of COVID-19 has caused cities to cancel summer programs and organizations to shift their priorities. However, these cancellations and shifts will have a negative effect on African-American and Latinx or Hispanic students who are grossly underserved in STEAM educational attainment.

Strong TIES joins forces with the New York Metro Chapter and Phoenix Chapter of the National Basketball Retired Players Association to remedy the skills gap that creates inequities in entering STEM/STEAM disciplines and workforces.

The organizations invite students to the inaugural STEAM In The Game from the comfort of their couches. Yes, virtual. The three-day event will be July 24-26.

Students will have an opportunity to gain skills for building quality apps, games and simulations, gain insights and inspiration from retired players of the NBA and other national tech leaders, and a select number of students will play in an eSport Tournament against the retired players of the NBA.

In 2019, video game design made \$138 billion in revenue. Business and government places high priority on video game and simulations. Learners starting at age 12 play multiplayer games for long periods with individuals around the globe. Yet, they often lack the educational tools and resources to create or recognize the rich learning opportunity that sit at their fingertips. eSports draws on game theory, computer science, physics, math, interaction design, art, production, data analytics, and artificial intelligence.

Fueled by STEAM, Gaming, eSport and Play, the weekend is for grades 9-12 (ages 13-18). The over-



arching theme, is "It's All About the Numbers." The event is filled to the brim with ingenious innovations, state-of-the-art technology, a tournament against the NBA Legends and hands-on exhibits – including all things about the backend of game design, development and production. The technology partner is Unity, a platform for creating games, simulations and VR/AR tools.

With so much going on, it's almost impossible to choose. Here's an overview of the 'leveling up' weekend:

Friday, July 24: The summer camp kicks off with an address from the NBA Legends. Then students will move to a game-changing learning and training experience through creating their own game. World renown coaches will lead game drills for learners to gain a deep dive into aspects for the creative process.

Saturday, July 25: It's more than just a game! The game building is an incubator of ideas that involves idea creation, design process, development, illustration, and production where students are quickly transformed from player to creator to create their own games, storytelling, and or simulations using the Unity Platform.

Saturday is the Tournament Kickoff. Please note, students do not have to have an XBOX or PS4 to participate in the summer camp. XBOX or PS4 is required for students who wish to put their name in the hat for playing in the tournament.

Sunday, July 26: A day of celebration and culmination of the entire weekend that features the retired players of the NBA Legends Exhibition Tournament. An exciting and thoroughly unique finale of the event is when the kids get

to "strut their stuff" through their unique design in their Unity game project. It concludes with a nationally known keynote speaker.

Dr. Loretta Cheeks, organizing director of the event and Strong TIES founder and CEO, said, "... this is a community-building partnership initiative, connecting youth to resources, mentors, organizations, tools and techniques grounded in STEAM. The event celebrates the genius and possibilities of our youth."

"Perhaps the underlying philosophy of STEAM In The Game can best be described by musician and educator Marcus Roberts: "Take what a young person knows, and give them the tools to use what they know, to unlock what they don't know."

For more event information, visit steaminthegame.org.

Helping Children Copy With Crisis

The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) continues to stand with communities and allies as it demands justice in policing, equitable policies, and fair treatment of Black people in all sectors, systems, institutions, and domains. The institute is committed to the long-term engagement and advocacy needed to effect sustainable, systemic change. The organizations stated: "As you're busy engaging in the fight, we understand that many of you are also working to help your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other young people in your lives make sense of all they're seeing related to the righteous protests. This is on top of your efforts to acclimate them to the changes in their routine as a result of the pandemic."

In its alignment to be part of the solution and provide resources, NBCDI has re-released "Helping Children Cope With Crisis" activity book as a resource for families, caregivers, places of worship and civic groups. This unique activity book was developed specifically for Black families by NBCDI and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Visit nbcdi.org for information.

Xfinity Education For K-12

In a joint effort with Common Sense Media, Comcast has made nearly 2,000 hours of programming and thousands of free titles available to Xfinity video customers to give children and their parents quick and easy access to educational programming by grade level, as part of the company's comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis. Xfinity customers with X1 or Flex can say "Education" or, if their voice search language is set to Spanish, "Educación," to gain access to content by grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 and also for all ages.

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Clinton Normore Promoted To ATSU's VP Of Diversity

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences' (ATSU) President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, announced Clinton Normore, MBA, has been promoted to vice president of diversity and inclusion, effective July 1.

Normore joined ATSU in September 2013 as director of diversity and was appointed associate vice president of diversity & inclusion in 2016.

"Over the past seven years, Mr. Normore has been instrumental in directing and developing ATSU's framework for cultural proficiency, diversity, and inclusion, an institutional priority espoused in the University's strategic plan," Dr. Phelps said. "His leadership and collaboration have produced a more diverse demographic portrait among ATSU students, faculty, and staff."

"This is truly an honor," Normore said. "I am privileged to serve in an institution whose ideals are commensurate with my own. This recognition is emblematic of the talent, hard work, and support the ATSU community offers. No success is completely of our own accord. The body, mind, and spirit are tenets of osteopathy, and also, the totality of each individual. ATSU's pursuit toward cultural proficiency nurtures learning, appreciation, valuing, forgiveness, and empathy for human fragility. I am blessed."

Among his accomplishments, Normore fa-



Clinton Normore, ATSU/KELLY ROGERS

cilitated successful completion of ATSU's first comprehensive cultural proficiency climate study, developed the Graduate Health Professions Scholarship Program, strengthened the Dreamline programming strategy with ATSU's partnerships among historically underrepresented groups, and formed strong partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities.

He serves as advisor to several student organizations, including the University's Student National Medical Associations (SNMA). In 2015, ATSU-Kirkville College

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